

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05  
DHA-02 EB-07 COME-00 DLOS-06 SAL-01 SAB-01 IO-13  
NEA-10 /101 W  
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P R 102202Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 QUITO 0200

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, EC  
SUBJECT: POLICY STATEMENT BY NEW GOE FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: QUITO 0060

1. SUMMARY: ON JAN. 5, ECUADOR'S NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, JORGE SALVADOR LARA, DELIVERED A MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS TO THE NATION. ALTHOUGH SALVADOR REITERATED ECUADOR'S BASIC FOREIGN POLICY PRINCIPLES, CERTAIN CHANGES IN EMPHASIS WERE DISCERNIBLE. HE CALLED FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE US WHILE IDENTIFYING ECUADOR CLOSELY WITH THE TRADITIONS AND INTERESTS OF OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. COMPARED TO THE GOE'S LAST COMPREHENSIVE MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENTS (JAN., 76), SALVADOR SEEMED MORE FRIENDLY TO THE US AND LESS DISPOSED TO ALLY ECUADOR WITH THE THIRD WORLD. END SUMMARY.

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2. ON JAN. 5, NEWLY-APPOINTED GOE FOREIGN MINISTER JORGE SALVADOR LARA PRESENTED A TELEVISED ADDRESS IN WHICH HE REVIEWED THE BASIC PRINCIPLES AND THEMES OF ECUADOREAN FOREIGN POLICY AND PRESENTED HIS VIEWS ON THE MAJOR POLICY ISSUES HE WILL FACE AS MINISTER. SUCH A SPEECH IS NOW TRADITIONAL AND IS DELIVERED BY EACH NEW FOREIGN MINISTER SHORTLY AFTER ASSUMING OFFICE.

3. SALVADOR'S REMARKS WERE BASICALLY CONSISTENT WITH THE POLICY STATEMENTS ISSUED BY HIS IMMEDIATE PREDECESSORS ARMANDO PESANTES AND GENERAL CARLOS AGUIRRE, BUT WERE FRIENDLIER TOWARD THE US. SALVADOR FORESAW A STENGTHENING OF THE TRADITIONAL AND CORDIAL BONDS THAT HAVE TIED THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT ECUADOR IS BOUND TO THE US BY THE SHARED DEMOCRATIC PHILOSOPHY AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. DESPITE THIS, HE COULD NOT OVERLOOK THE UNJUST TREATMENT OF ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA UNDER THE US TRADE ACT, BUT HOPED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER, WITH A FRIENDLY CONGRESS, COULD ELIMINATE THE THORNY ISSUE. SALVADOR ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF LATIN AMERICA AND CORRECT THE NEGATIVE CURRENTS IN US/LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS.

4. IN HIS DISCUSSION OF ANOTHER AREA OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE US, LAW OF THE SEA, SALVADOR REITERATED THE GOE VIEW THAT THE WIDE ACCEPTANCE OF A 200-MILE FISHING ZONE JUSTIFIES ECUADOR'S STAND THAT COASTAL STATES CAN "UNILATERALLY DETERMINE THE LIMITS OF THEIR MARITIME JURISDICTION." HE FURTHER STATED EUCADOR'S LONGHELD THESIS THAT STATES SHOULD HAVE THE "CAPACITY TO ESTABLISH THEIR MARITIME SOVEREIGN OUT TO 200 MILES," AND REASSERTED THE GOE'S RIGHT TO REGULATE THE USE OF ITS COASTAL WATERS.

5. IN ANOTHER US-RELATED ISSUE, PANAMA, SALVADOR EXPRESSED THE GOE'S HOPE THAT A FAIR TREATY COULD BE ARRIVED AT QUICKLY. HE DID NOT CRITICIZE THE US POSITION OR GOOD FAITH.  
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6. AS HIS PREDECESSORS HAD DONE BEFORE, SALVADOR SKETCHED THE BROAD GUIDELINES AND PRINCIPLES OF ECUADOREAN FOREIGN POLICY. THESE PRINCIPLES, WHICH HAVE SHOWN REMARKABLE CONSISTENCY, INCLUDE RESPECT FOR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE, PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, REJECTION OF THE USE OF FORCE AND TERRITORAIL GAIN BY FORCE, NON-ALIGNMENT, AND THE JURIDICIAL EQUALITY OF STATES. ALTHOUGH THESE ARE THE TRADITIONAL BASES OF ECUADOR'S FOREIGN POLICY PRINCIPLES, SALVADOR REFERRED TO THEM AS PART OF A CONCEPT CALLED THE "NEW INTERNATIONAL LAW." THIS TERM, WHOSE MEANING IS UNCLEAR, APPARENTLY ORIGINATED WITH FORMER PRESIDENT JOSE MARIA VELASCO IBARRA BUT HAS NOT RECEIVED THE ATTENTION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY RECENTLY. ALTHOUGH SALVADOR USED THE WORD "NEW," THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES HE STATED REMAINED VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED FROM THE PESANTES AND AGUIRRE SPEECHES.

7. ANOTHER VARIATION BETWEEN THE SALVADOR AND PESANTES SPEECHES INVOLVS ECUADOR'S VIEW OF WHERE SHE FITS IN AMONG

THE OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD. LAST YEAR, PESANTES EMPHASIZED ECUADOR'S MEMBERSHIP IN AND TIES WITH THE THIRD WORLD WHILE SALVADOR GAVE MUCH GREATER IMPORTANCE TO LATIN AMERICA AND TO THE STATES OF GRAN COLOMBIA (COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA, PANAMA AND ECUADOR) IN PARTICULAR. SALVADOR STRESSED THE CONCEPT OF HISPANIDAD AND CONCENTRATED ON THE SHARED MYSTIQUE OF THE HISPANIC WORLD. WHILE PESANTES GAVE STRONG MENTION TO THE GROUP OF 77, SALVADOR ALMOST IGNORED THE GROUP.

8. ONE OF THE MOST NOTEWORTHY ITEMS IN THE PESANTES SPEECH OF A YEAR AGO WAS THE REVIVAL OF THE QUESTION OF ECUADOR'S AMAZONIC SOVEREIGNTY. WHILE ECUADOR HAS LONG REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE RIO PROTOCOL BORDER DELIMITATION, PESANTES CHANGED THE NATURE OF THE QUESTION FROM LOW-KEYED ECUADOREAN GRUMBLING TO AN IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE OF ECUADOREAN BILATERAL DIPLOMACY. SALVADOR SEEMS TO HAVE BACKED OFF FROM THIS

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QUESTION SOMEWHAT, BY CALLING ONLY FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE BORDER QUESTION WITH PERU IN THE INTEREST OF OVERALL REGIONAL HARMONY WHILE NOT MAKING SPECIFIC MENTION OF AMAZONIC CLAIMS.

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05  
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AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 QUITO 0200

9. OTHER SPECIFIC STATEMENTS BY SALVADOR INCLUDED:

- A. A DEFENSE OF ECUADOR'S OPEC MEMBERSHIP;
- B. SUPPORT FOR THE OAS, UN, AND SELA (ALTHOUGH THE ENDORSEMENT OF SELA WAS PRO FORMA COMPARED TO PESANTES' SPEECH)
- C. SUPPORT FOR BOLIVIA'S DESIRE FOR AN OUTLET ON THE PACIFIC;
- D. A REITERATION OF ECUADOR'S CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY OVER GEO-SYNCHRONOUS ORBITS;
- E. A COMMENT ON ECUADOR'S UNFAVORABLE TRADE BALANCE WITH JAPAN;
- F. A WISH TO INCREASE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE SOCIALIST CONFIDENTIAL

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BLOC; AND

- G. A CONDEMNATION OF THE EEC FOR DISCRIMINATING AGAINST ECUADOREAN PRODUCTS;
- H. FRIENDLY WORDS FOR ISRAEL, AS WELL AS ECUADOR'S ARAB PARTNERS IN OPEC;
- I. SUPPORT FOR THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES;
- J. CONDEMNATION FO "THE IMPERIALISMS."

10. COMMENT: WHILE SALVADOR MAY NOT HAVE BROKEN ANY NEW GROUND IN HIS INTRODUCTORY SPEECH THERE WAS A DISTINCT DIFFERENCE IN EMPHASIS FROM HIS PREDECESSOR'S SPEECH MADE ONE YEAR AGO, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FALL OF THE "NATIONALIST-REVOLUTIONARY" GOVERNMENT OF GEN. GUILLERMO RODRIGUEZ LARA. PESANTES' SPEECH HAD A MUCH MORE PRONOUNCED THIRD WORLD CENTER OF GRAVITY, STRESSING UNCTAD, THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER AND SELA. THE REFERENCES TO THE US IN PESANTES' SPEECH WERE LESS POSITIVE: REJECTING AND CONDEMNING THE TRADE ACT AS A COERCIVE MEASURE, AND COMPLAINING THAT THE US WAS PROVING TO BE AN OBSTACLE IN THE PATH OF OAS REFORM. SALVADOR'S SPEECH TREATS THIRD WORLD TOPICS ROUTINELY

AND BY COMPARISON IS ALMOST RHAPSODIC IN ITS REMARKS ABOUT THE US. AS WE HAVE REPORTED EARLIER, THE POSITIVE TONE VIS A VIS THE US WOULD REFLECT MORE ACCURATELY THE SENTIMENTS OF THE NATION'S MILITARY LEADERSHIP.

11. WHILE IT IS TOO SOON TO TELL WHETHER SALVADOR'S GENERALLY POSITIVE APPROACH TO RELATIONS WITH THE US IN HIS ADDRESS DENOTES A SIGNIFICANT SHIFT TOWARDS BEING MORE ACCOMODATING ON ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE US, THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT PESANTES WAS REMOVED IN PART BECAUSE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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DISSATISFACTION AMONG THE SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBERS WITH "MISTAKES" THAT HAD BEEN MADE DURING RECENT MONTHS ON UN VOTES ON THE GUAM AND CHILE RESOLUTIONS.  
BLOOMFIELD

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## Message Attributes

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